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# ***U.S. PATENT APPLICATION***

***Inventor(s):*** Seigi TOIYAMA

***Invention:*** DYNAMIC FLOW RATE ADJUSTING METHOD FOR INJECTOR

***NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
1100 NORTH GLEBE ROAD  
8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201-4714  
(703) 816-4000  
Facsimile (703) 816-4100***

## ***SPECIFICATION***

# DYNAMIC FLOW RATE ADJUSTING METHOD FOR INJECTOR

## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is based on and incorporates herein by  
5 reference Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-316268 filed on  
October 30, 2002.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### 1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION:

10 The present invention relates to a dynamic flow rate  
adjusting method for an injector.

### 2. DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART:

An adjusting system shown in Fig. 1 adjusts a dynamic  
flow rate of an injector 1. The dynamic flow rate of fluid  
15 injected by the injector 1 is adjusted by regulating biasing  
force of a spring 21. The biasing force of the spring 21 is  
regulated by adjusting a press-fitting position of an  
adjusting pipe 23. The dynamic flow rate is quantity of fluid  
injected during a stroke (opening and closing motion) of a  
20 needle 30. The injector 1 injects experimental fluid through  
injection holes 25 when the needle 30 as a valve member  
separates from a valve seat 27. As the experimental fluid,  
incombustible fluid having substantially the same viscosity as  
the fuel is used in order to prevent ignition and the like.  
25 The spring 21 as a biasing member biases the needle 30 in a  
direction for seating the needle 30 on the valve seat 27, or a  
direction for closing the injection holes 25. The adjusting

pipe 23 is driven to an inside of a housing 10 of the injector 1 when press-fitted. When the press-fitting position of the adjusting pipe 23 is determined and the target dynamic flow rate is achieved, the adjusting pipe 23 is fixed to the housing 10 by crimping and the like. If current is supplied to a coil 50 as an electric driving member, magnetic force is generated for attracting the needle 30 toward a fixed core 22 (upward in Fig. 1) against the biasing force of the spring 21. Thus, the needle 30 separates from the valve seat 27. A maximum lifting distance of the needle 30 is defined by the position of the fixed core 22.

A pump 100 draws the experimental fluid from a tank 101 to the injector 1. A pressure gauge 102 measures pressure of the fluid supplied to the injector 1. A flowmeter 103 as measuring means measures the flow rate of the fluid flowing through the injector 1. For instance, the flowmeter 103 outputs a pulse number of pulse signals generated per unit time in accordance with the flow rate, as a flow rate signal. The pulse number outputted by the flowmeter 13 increases as the flow rate increases. A back pressure valve 104 regulates the pressure of the fluid supplied to the injector 1 to a predetermined pressure. A pressure reducing valve may be employed instead of the back pressure valve 104. A motor gear 111 rotating with a motor 110 as an adjusting amount changing means is meshed with a screw gear 112. The screw gear 112 is connected with a driving screw 113 in thread engagement. If the screw gear 112 rotates, the driving screw 113 moves upward

or downward in Fig. 1. If the driving screw 113 moves downward, the adjusting pipe 23 is driven to the inside of the housing 10. A personal computer (PC) 120 as calculating means receives the flow rate signal outputted by the flowmeter 103 and calculates the dynamic flow rate corresponding to the present press-fitting position of the adjusting pipe 23. The PC 120 controls a driving circuit 121 based on a difference between the calculated dynamic flow rate and the target dynamic flow rate. Thus, the PC 120 regulates controlling current supplied to the motor 110 from the driving circuit 121. The PC 120 calculates the press-fitting position of the adjusting pipe 23 for the next time.

If the adjusting pipe 23 is driven into the housing 10, the biasing force of the spring 21 is increased. If the adjusting pipe 23 is press-fitted, a valve opening period  $T_o$  of the injector 1 is lengthened, and a valve closing period  $T_c$  is contracted as shown in Fig. 9 in the case where the coil 50 is applied with the controlling pulse current having an identical frequency, an identical pulse width and an identical amplitude. Therefore, a time length of one injection performed by the injector 1 is contracted and the injection quantity is reduced. Accordingly, the dynamic flow rate calculated by the PC 120 based on the flow rate signal outputted by the flowmeter 103 is reduced. The valve opening period  $T_o$  is a time length from the time when an injection pulse signal for commanding the injection is turned on to the time when the needle 30 separates from the valve seat 27 and

the needle 30 is stopped by the fixed core 22, so a lifting distance of the needle 30 is maximized. The valve closing period  $T_c$  is a time length from the time when the injection pulse signal is turned off to the time when the needle 30 is seated on the valve seat 27 and the injection is stopped. In Fig. 9, an axis  $q_b$  represents the flow rate before the adjusting pipe 23 is press-fitted, and an axis  $q_a$  is the flow rate after the adjusting pipe 23 is press-fitted.

A conventional adjusting method of the dynamic flow rate performed with the adjusting pipe 23 will be explained based on Figs. 10 and 11. In Fig. 10, an axis of abscissas represents the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 and an axis of ordinates represents the dynamic flow rate  $q$ . A symbol  $q_t$  on the axis  $q$  represents the target dynamic flow rate. The press-fitting degree  $L$  as an adjusting amount of the adjusting pipe 23 represents displacement of the adjusting pipe 23 from an initial position to the position where the adjusting pipe 23 is press-fitted. In the case where a plurality of injectors 1 having identical structure are adjusted, an average value of a rate of change (a change rate  $K_q$ ) of the dynamic flow rate  $q$  with respect to the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 is calculated in advance from measurements of the injectors 1. Then, the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 for achieving the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$  is calculated based on the change rate  $K_q$ .

However, the dynamic flow rate  $q$  includes a dynamic flow

rate error  $E_d$  and a static flow rate error  $E_s$  of a static flow rate as shown in Fig. 10. Therefore, if the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 for the present adjustment is calculated from the above change rate  $K_q$ , there is a possibility that the press-fitting degree  $L$  may become too large. The static flow rate represents a flow rate of fluid injected by the injector 1 when the injector 1 injects the fluid continuously for a predetermined period. The static flow rate error  $E_s$  is an error in the flow rate caused by errors generated in processing steps of parts constituting the injector 1. For instance, the static flow rate error  $E_s$  is caused by variation in an opening area of the fluid passage at the time when the needle 30 is lifted or by variation in the maximum lifting distance of the needle 30. The dynamic flow rate error  $E_d$  represents an error in the flow rate caused by the error in electromagnetic characteristics of the coil 50 and elastic characteristics of the spring 21. Thus, in the conventional adjusting method for achieving the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$  based on the change rate  $K_q$  of the dynamic flow rate  $q$  with respect to the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23, the change rate  $K_q$  includes the dynamic flow rate error  $E_d$  and the static flow rate error  $E_s$ .

If the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 is too large, there is a possibility that the dynamic flow rate  $q$  may become smaller than the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$ . The position of the adjusting pipe 23 is fixed by press-fitting. Therefore, if the press-fitting degree  $L$  is too

large, the adjusting pipe 23 cannot be brought back.

Therefore, in the case where the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 is calculated based on the change rate  $Kq$  of the dynamic flow rate  $q$  with respect to the press-fitting degree  $L$ , a rate of change in the press-fitting degree  $L$  per press-fitting process has to be reduced in order not to drive the adjusting pipe 23 excessively during the adjustment of the dynamic flow rate  $q$ . Therefore, as shown in Fig. 11, the number of times to drive the adjusting pipe 23 is increased until the dynamic flow rate  $l$  reaches a standard area  $Rqt$  corresponding to the target dynamic flow rate  $qt$  and a time length for the adjustment is lengthened. Heavy lines "CHECK" in Fig. 11 represent periods in which the dynamic flow rate  $q$  is measured and the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 is calculated.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a dynamic flow rate adjusting method for an injector capable of contracting an adjusting period.

According to an aspect of the present invention, in a dynamic flow rate adjusting method, an adjusting amount of an adjuster is calculated based on a static flow rate. Thus, a static flow rate error included in the dynamic flow rate can be considered in the calculation of the adjusting amount of the adjuster. Since the dynamic flow rate is calculated by adjusting the adjusting amount of the adjuster and variation

in the dynamic flow rate for each injector is small, the adjuster can reach a target adjusting position for achieving the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$  in a small number of the adjustments. Thus, the adjusting period can be contracted.

5 If the number of the injectors 1 to be adjusted is constant, the number of the adjusting systems can be reduced.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 Features and advantages of an embodiment will be appreciated, as well as methods of operation and the function of the related parts, from a study of the following detailed description, the appended claims, and the drawings, all of which form a part of this application. In the drawings:

15 Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram showing an adjusting system for an injector according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view showing the injector according to the embodiment;

20 Fig. 3 is a characteristic diagram showing a relationship between time and a flow rate during a dynamic injection performed by the injector according to the embodiment;

25 Fig. 4 is a characteristic diagram showing a relationship between the time and the flow rate during a static injection performed by the injector according to the embodiment;

Fig. 5A is a diagram showing a method for carrying the



injector according to the embodiment;

Fig. 5B is a diagram showing the injector according to the embodiment along an arrow mark VB in Fig. 5A;

5 Fig. 6 is a schematic flowchart showing steps of adjustment according to the embodiment;

Fig. 7 is a characteristic diagram showing a relationship between a press-fitting degree of an adjusting pipe and an ineffective injection period according to the embodiment;

10 Fig. 8 is a characteristic diagram showing an adjusting process of the dynamic flow rate according to the embodiment;

Fig. 9 is a characteristic diagram showing a change in the flow rate between an injection before the adjusting pipe is press-fitted and an injection after the adjusting pipe is press-fitted;

15 Fig. 10 is a characteristic diagram showing a relationship between a press-fitting degree of an adjusting pipe and a dynamic flow rate of a conventional technology; and

Fig. 11 is a characteristic diagram showing an adjusting process of the flow rate of the conventional technology.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE REFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to Fig. 2, an injector 1 according to the embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. A dynamic flow rate adjusting system of the present embodiment has substantially the same structure as the conventional dynamic flow rate adjusting system shown in Fig. 1.

A housing 10 of the injector 1, which injects fuel, is formed in the shape of a cylinder, which is formed of magnetic members and a nonmagnetic member. The housing 10 is formed with a fuel passage 11. The fuel passage 11 accommodates a valve body 20, a spring 21, a fixed core 22, an adjusting pipe 23, a needle 30 as a valve member, a movable core 40 and the like.

The housing 10 has a first magnetic member 12, a nonmagnetic member 13 and a second magnetic member 14 in that order from a valve body 20 side, which is positioned in a lower area in Fig. 2. The first magnetic member 12 is welded with the nonmagnetic member 13, and the nonmagnetic member 13 is welded with the second magnetic member 14 by laser welding and the like. The nonmagnetic member 13 prevents short circuit of magnetic flux between the first magnetic member 12 and the second magnetic member 14. The valve body 20 is fixed by welding on a side of the first magnetic member 12 opposite from the nonmagnetic member 13.

The fixed core 22 is formed in the shape of a cylinder. The fixed core 22 is press-fitted to the insides of the nonmagnetic member 13 and the second magnetic member 14. Thus, the fixed core 22 is fixedly attached to the housing 10. The fixed core 22 is disposed on a side of the movable core 40 opposite from the injection holes 25, so the fixed core 22 faces the movable core 40.

The adjusting pipe 23 is press-fitted to the inside of the fixed core 22. An end of the spring 21 contacts the

adjusting pipe 23 and the other end of the spring 21 contacts the movable core 40. The load applied to the needle 30 by the spring 21 is changed by adjusting the press-fitting degree (an adjusting amount) of the adjusting pipe 23. The spring 21  
5 biases the needle 30 toward the valve seat 27, or in a direction for closing the injection holes 25.

An injection plate 24 formed of a thin plate in the shape of a cup is fixed to a peripheral wall of the valve body 20 by welding. The plurality of injection holes 25 is formed  
10 at the center of the injection plate 24.

The needle 30 is formed in the shape of a hollow cylinder with a bottom surface. A fuel passage 31 is formed inside the needle 30. The needle 30 can be seated on the valve seat 27 formed in an inner peripheral wall of the valve  
15 body 20. If the needle 30 is seated on the valve seat 27, the injection holes 25 are closed and the fuel injection is stopped.

The movable core 40 is disposed on a side of the needle 30 opposite from the injection holes 25. The needle 30 is  
20 formed with fuel holes, which penetrate the side wall of the needle 30. The fuel flowing into the fuel passage 31 of the needle 30 passes through the fuel holes and flows to a valve portion provided by the needle 30 and the valve seat 27. The coil 50 is electrically connected with a terminal 51, through  
25 which driving current is supplied to the coil 50. If the driving current is supplied to the coil 50, the movable core 40 is attracted toward the fixed core 22. Thus, the needle 30

separates from the valve seat 27 and the fuel is injected from the injection holes 25. The maximum lifting distance of the needle 30 is provided when the fixed core 22 stops the movable core 40, which is attracted by the coil 50.

5           A filter 19 eliminates extraneous matters included in the fuel flowing into the fuel passage 11 from the upper side in Fig. 2. The fuel, from which the extraneous matters are eliminated, is supplied to the valve portion through the fuel passage 11, a radially inner area of the adjusting pipe 23, a  
10           radially inner area of the fixed core 22, a radially inner area of the movable core 40, the fuel passage 31 of the needle 30 and the fuel holes penetrating the side wall of the needle 30. The fuel supplied to the valve portion flows to the injection holes 25 when the needle 30 separates from the valve  
15           seat 27 and is injected from the injection holes 25.

Next, a dynamic flow rate adjusting method for the injector 1 of the present embodiment will be explained.

First, before measuring the dynamic flow rate  $q$ , a static flow rate  $Q$  is measured with static flow rate measuring means in Step 200 of the flowchart shown in Fig. 6. More  
20           specifically, the fixed core 22 is press-fitted to a predetermined position based on data acquired from the plurality of injectors 1 having identical structure. Then, an injection command signal having a predetermined pulse width  
25           (for instance, a pulse width of one minute as shown in Fig. 4) is applied to the injector 1, and the static flow rate  $Q$  (cc/min) is measured.

Then, the injector 1, whose static flow rate  $Q$  is measured, is mounted on a pallet 130 and is carried to the adjusting system shown in Fig. 1 by a carrier 132 as shown in Figs. 5A and 5B. An ID tag 140 storing information of each injector 1 such as a part number and the static flow rate  $Q$  thereof is attached to the pallet 130. The static flow rate  $Q$  of the injector 1 is scanned by an ID tag sensor 142 and is stored in the PC 120 before the injector 1 is set to the dynamic flow rate adjusting system.

Then, in Step 201, the adjusting pipe 23 is press-fitted to an initial position  $L_0$  by using the motor 110 (adjusting amount changing means) as press-fitting means. More specifically, the injector 1 is set to the dynamic flow rate adjusting system, and the pressure of the fluid supplied from the pump 100 to the injector 1 is controlled to a predetermined pressure with the back pressure valve 104. Then, the motor 110 is rotated to press-fit and carry the adjusting pipe 23 to the predetermined initial position  $L_0$  so that the spring 21 exerts the biasing force to a degree that the needle 30 is seated on the valve seat 27.

Then, in Step 202, the initial dynamic flow rate  $q_0$  ( $\text{mm}^3/\text{str}$ ) is measured by using the flowmeter 103 (measuring means) and the PC 120 (calculating means) as dynamic flow rate measuring means. More specifically, the PC 120 controls the driving circuit 121 to supply the injector 1 with the injection pulse signal having a predetermined frequency, a predetermined pulse width and a predetermined amplitude. The

PC 120 calculates the initial dynamic flow rate  $q_0$  ( $\text{mm}^3/\text{str}$ ), or a flow rate per injection at the time when the adjusting pipe 23 is set at the initial position  $L_0$ , based on the pulse number of the pulse signals generated by the flowmeter 103 per unit time in accordance with the flow rate.

The calculation of the dynamic flow rate  $q_k$  ( $k$  is an integer number starting from 0) at the time when the adjusting pipe 23 is press-fitted to the press-fitting position  $L_k$  ( $k$  is an integer number starting from 0) will be explained based on Fig. 3.

In Fig. 3,  $T_i$  represents an injection command period provided by the injection pulse signal,  $T_o$  is a valve opening period and  $T_c$  is a valve closing period. As shown in Fig. 3, an area  $S_0$ , which is provided by integrating the flow rate  $q$  since the needle 30 separates from the valve seat 27 until the needle 30 is stopped by the fixed core 22, is assumed to be equal to an area  $S_1$ , which is provided by integrating the flow rate  $q$  since the needle 30 separates from the fixed core 22 until the needle 30 is seated on the valve seat 27. Therefore, in the case where the fluid of the dynamic flow rate  $q$  shown in Fig. 3 is injected in a state in which the needle 30 is stopped by the fixed core 22 and is fully opened, an effective injection period  $T_e$  is calculated by a following equation (1).

$$T_e = T_i + T_c - T_o = T_i - (T_o - T_c), \quad (1)$$

In the effective injection period  $(T_i - (T_o - T_c))$ , a

period ( $T_o - T_c$ ) provided by subtracting the valve closing period  $T_c$  from the valve opening period  $T_o$  is referred to as an ineffective injection period  $T_v$ , hereafter. If the injection is performed when the needle 30 is stopped by the fixed core 22 and is fully opened, the dynamic flow rate  $q$  ( $\text{mm}^3/\text{str}$ ) per unit time (msec) can be calculated by converting the static flow rate  $Q$  (cc/min) into the flow rate  $Q'$  ( $\text{mm}^3/\text{msec}$ ), or the flow rate  $Q/60$  ( $\text{mm}^3/\text{msec}$ ). Therefore, the dynamic flow rate  $q_k$  ( $\text{mm}^3/\text{str}$ ) at the time when the adjusting pipe 23 is disposed at the press-fitting position  $L_k$  is represented by a following equation (2). In the equation (2),  $T_{v_k}$  (msec) ( $k$  is an integer number starting from 0) represents the ineffective injection period. Since the flow rate  $q_k$  and the static flow rate  $Q$  are the measured values and the injection command period  $T_i$  is the set value, the ineffective injection period  $T_{v_k}$  can be calculated by the equation (2).

$$q_k = (Q/60) \times (T_i - T_{v_k})$$

$$T_{v_k} = T_i - (60 \times q_k / Q), \quad (2)$$

The target ineffective injection period  $T_{vt}$  can be represented by a following equation (3). In the equation (3),  $q_t$  represents the target dynamic flow rate. Since the static flow rate  $Q$  is the measured value and the injection command period  $T_i$  and the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$  are the set values, the target ineffective injection period  $T_{vt}$  can be calculated by the equation (3).

$$q_t = (Q/60) \times (T_i - T_{vt})$$

$$T_{vt} = T_i - (60 \times q_t / Q), \quad (3)$$

5           Then, in Step 203, the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 is calculated by using the PC 120 (the calculating means) as press-fitting degree calculating means. A press-fitting position  $L_{k+1}$  of the adjusting pipe 23 can be calculated by a following equation (4).

$$L_{k+1} = L_k + \Delta L$$

$$L_{k+1} = L_k + (T_{vt} - T_{v_k}) / K_t, \quad (4)$$

10           In the equation (4),  $K_t$  (msec/mm) represents an adjustment coefficient as a rate of change in the ineffective injection period  $T_v$  with respect to the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23.  $\Delta L$  represents an increase in the press-fitting degree  $L$  from the previous press-fitting position  $L_k$  to the present press-fitting position  $L_{k+1}$  for press-fitting the adjusting pipe 23 to achieve the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$ .

15           The press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 is the displacement from the initial position  $L_0$  to the position where the adjusting pipe 23 is press-fitted. The adjustment coefficient  $K_t$  used in the present adjustment is an average value of the adjustment coefficients  $K_t$  calculated for the respective injectors 1 by the previous adjustment. The



ineffective injection period  $Tv_k$  is calculated by the equation (2), and the target ineffective injection period  $Tvt$  is calculated by the equation (3). The adjustment coefficient  $Kt$  is a known value. Therefore, the press-fitting position  $L_{k+1}$  can be calculated by the equation (4).

The ineffective injection period  $Tv_k$  and the target ineffective injection period  $Tvt$  are calculated from the static flow rate  $Q$  treated as a variable, based on the equations (2) and (3). The press-fitting position  $L_{k+1}$  is calculated from the ineffective injection period  $Tv_k$  and the target ineffective injection period  $Tvt$  treated as variables, based on the equation (4). The press-fitting position  $L_{k+1}$  is a value calculated from the static flow rate  $Q$  treated as the variable, based on the equations (2), (3) and (4). Thus, the press-fitting position  $L_{k+1}$  is a value in which the variation in the static flow rate  $Q$  among the respective injectors 1 is considered. As shown in Fig. 7, the relationship between the ineffective injection period  $Tv_k$  and the target ineffective injection period  $Tvt$  includes only the dynamic flow rate error  $Ed$ , because the static flow rate error  $Es$  due to the variation in the static flow rate  $Q$  is taken into consideration.

The increase  $\Delta L$  in the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 is calculated by the equation (4). Therefore, the increase  $\Delta L$  is a value calculated from the static flow rate  $Q$  treated as the variable. Therefore, the increase  $\Delta L$  in the press fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 is a value in which the variation in the static flow

rate  $Q$  among the respective injectors 1 is taken into consideration. If the difference  $\Delta q$  between the dynamic flow rate  $q_k$  and the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$  is constant, a value  $(T_{vt} - T_{v_k})$  provided by subtracting the ineffective injection period  $T_{v_k}$  from the target ineffective injection period  $T_{vt}$  decreases as the static flow rate  $Q$  increases as shown by a following equation (5).

$$\Delta q = q_k - q_t$$

$$\Delta q = (Q/60) \times (T_i - T_{v_k}) - (Q/60) \times (T_i - T_{vt})$$

$$\Delta q = (Q/60) \times (T_{vt} - T_{v_k}), (5)$$

More specifically, if the difference  $\Delta q$  between the dynamic flow rate  $q_k$  and the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$  is constant, the increase  $\Delta L$  in the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 calculated by the equation (4) decreases as the static flow rate  $Q$  increases.

Then, in Step 204, the adjusting pipe 23 is driven and press-fitted to the calculated press-fitting position  $L_{k+1}$  by rotating the motor 110 as the press-fitting means.

Then, in Step 205, the dynamic flow rate  $q_{k+1}$  after the adjusting pipe 23 is press-fitted is calculated by using the flowmeter 103 (the measuring means) and the PC 120 (the calculating means) as the dynamic flow rate measuring means, like the initial dynamic flow rate  $q_0$  measured in Step 202.

Then, in Step 206a, it is determined whether the dynamic flow rate  $q_{k+1}$  calculated in Step 205 is greater than a

standard range  $R_{qt}$  corresponding to the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$  or not by using the PC 120 (the calculating means) as determining means. If the result of the determination in Step 206a is "YES", the processing returns to Step 203 and the adjustment is repeated as shown in Fig. 8. If the result of the determination in Step 206a is "NO", the processing proceeds to Step 206b. In Step 206b, it is determined whether the dynamic flow rate  $q_{k+1}$  calculated in Step 205 is less than the standard range  $R_{qt}$  of the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$  or not by using the PC 120 (the calculating means) as the determining means. If the result of the determination in Step 206b is "YES", it is determined that the adjusting pipe 23 is press-fitted excessively. In this case, the injector 1 is considered as a defective and is carried to a pallet for the defective injectors 1 in Step 207. If the result of the determination in Step 206b is "NO", the injector 1 is considered as a nondefective and is carried to another pallet for the nondefective injectors 1 in Step 208.

If the injector 1 is nondefective, the ineffective injection period  $T_{v_{k+1}}$  is calculated by the equation (2), and the adjustment coefficient  $K_t$  for the present adjustment is calculated by a following equation:  $K_t = (T_{v_{k+1}} - T_{v0}) / (L_{k+1} - L_0)$ . Then, the presently adjusted injector 1 is added to samples, and the average value of the adjustment coefficients  $K_t$  is calculated as the adjustment coefficient  $K_t$  for the next adjustment.

In the above embodiment, the increase  $\Delta L$  in the press-

fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 is calculated from the static flow rate  $Q$  measured in advance. Thus, the increase  $\Delta L$  in the press-fitting degree  $L$ , in which the variation in the static flow rate  $Q$  among the injectors 1 is taken into consideration, can be calculated. The dynamic flow rate  $q$  of each injector 1 is calculated from the increase  $\Delta L$  in the press-fitting degree  $L$  calculated with the use of the adjustment coefficient  $K_t$ . Therefore, the variation in the dynamic flow rate  $q$  includes only the dynamic flow rate error  $E_d$  due to the elastic characteristics of the spring 21, the electromagnetic characteristics of the coil 50 and the like. The static flow rate error  $E_s$  is eliminated from the variation in the dynamic flow rate  $q$ . Thus, the variation in the dynamic flow rate  $q$  is reduced, and the dynamic flow rates  $q$  of almost all the injectors 1 can be adjusted into the standard range  $R_{qt}$  of the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$ . Therefore, there is no need to make the increase  $\Delta L$  in the press-fitting degree  $L$  smaller than the value calculated by the equation (4) to prevent the actual dynamic flow rate from becoming smaller than the standard range  $R_{qt}$  of the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$ . The dynamic flow rate becomes smaller than the standard range  $R_{qt}$  of the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$  when the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 is too large. In addition, the possibility that the dynamic flow rate  $q$  reaches the standard range  $R_{qt}$  of the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$  in a single adjustment is increased. Therefore, the number of times for performing the adjustment can be

reduced and the adjusting period can be contracted.

(Modifications)

In the present embodiment, the rate of change in the ineffective injection period  $T_v$  with respect to the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 is employed as the adjustment coefficient  $K_t$ . Instead of the ineffective injection period  $T_v$ , the rate of change in the effective injection period  $(T_i + T_c - T_o)$  with respect to the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 may be employed as the adjustment coefficient  $K_t$ . Thus, the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 for achieving the target dynamic flow rate  $q_t$  may be calculated.

In the present embodiment, the press-fitting degree  $L$  of the adjusting pipe 23 press-fitted into the housing 10 is adjusted in order to regulate the load of the spring 21. Thus, the dynamic flow rate  $q$  is adjusted. Instead of the adjusting pipe 23 fixed by press-fitting, any other member fixed by screwing or welding after inserted to the fixed core 22 can be employed as the adjuster if the member can change the load of the spring 21.

In the injector 1 of the present embodiment, the fixed core 22 stops the needle 30, and the maximum lifting distance of the needle 30 is defined by the press-fitting position of the fixed core 22. Instead of the fixed core 22, a dedicated stopper for stopping the needle 30 may be employed, and the maximum lifting distance of the needle 30 may be defined by the position of the stopper.

The present invention should not be limited to the disclosed embodiment, but may be implemented in many other ways without departing from the spirit of the invention.